

ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2nd, 2025
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

- 1. Chairwoman Nancy Carriere called this meeting of the Public Works Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
- 2. **Pledge of Allegiance and Invocation was said by Councilman Alvin Stelly.**
- 3. **Roll Call:** Nancy Carriere, Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier and Wayne Ardoin.
ABSENT: Ex-Officio Jody White, Mildred Thierry and Jimmie Edwards.
- 4. **Person to address the Committee:**
Shadrick Joseph-Land Erosion and Drainage Problems along his property on Wisdom Road and Hackberry Street.
Mr. Shadrick Joseph was not present to address the council.
- 5. **Public Works Report:**

Mr. Barry Soileau, Public Works Director addressed the council. He stated, “For the month of March we:

Boomed Axed	5 Roads
Culvert Cleaned	11 Roads
Culvert Installation	14 Roads
Debris Removal	55 Roads
Ditching	19 Roads
Grading	36 Roads
Material Spreading	18 Roads
Patching	21 Roads
Sign Installation	19 Roads
Tree Removal	15 Roads
Washout	1 Road

Mr. Barry Soileau continued to state, “I just want to add that those areas that were hit by the tornado we are asking that constituents pile their debris at the road and Parish Government would pick it up. We are asking that they please separate the debris and do not place tires in the debris because it interferes with us dumping it at the Landfill. We want to try and help many people as we can. If someone knows something that is on the road such as a tree cracked or something and we may have missed it, please call our office so we can address it. We would rather get it before something happens afterwards. Feel free to call me anytime anything happens.”

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, “I just wanted to bring a little clarity to the word separated. A lot of times people think that because it was involved in the tornado they have to separate the debris from the tornado which means tin or fence post or some wire and that goes into tornado pick up. The actual tree limbs and the fence post have to be separated regardless at the end of the road because I have seen it where we have had those issues.”

Mr. Barry Soileau stated, “Thank you, one thing is Cresol, we cannot take anything with Cresol. I am glad you mentioned that.”

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to accept the Public Works Report.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier and Wayne Ardoin.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Mildred Thierry and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion carried.

6. **Discuss four- wheelers, side-by-sides, and golf carts on the roads.**
(Councilman Alvin Stelly).

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “This matter has been solved.”

7. **Forward all applications received for three appointments to Bellevue & Coulee Crouche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 for a four-year term. (05-02-2025 – 05-02-2029).**

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 16th, 2025** all applications received for three appointments to Bellevue & Coulee Crouche Gravity Drainage District No. 20 for a four-year term. (05-02-2025 – 05-02-2029).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier and Wayne Ardoin.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Mildred Thierry and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

8. **Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14 for a four-year term. (06-21-2025 – 06-21-2029).**

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 16th, 2025** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for five appointments to the St. Landry Gravity Drainage District No. 14 for a four- year term. (06-21-2025 – 06-21-2029).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier and Wayne Ardoin.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Mildred Thierry and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

9. **Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Waterworks District No. 5 for a three-year term. (4-21-2025 - 4-21-2028) Jody Fontenot resigned.**

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Wayne Ardoin to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 16th, 2025** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Waterworks District No. 5 for a three-year term. (4-21-2025 - 4-21-2028).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier and Wayne Ardoin.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Mildred Thierry and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

10. **Update on Smooth Ride Home and what those funds can be spent on.**
(Councilwoman Mildred Thierry)

Public Works Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Councilwoman Mildred Thierry is not here. We can table this item.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “This item probably will come back up. We need the By-Laws of how that money is to be spent on the Smooth Ride Home when it is collected. We also would like the list of roads that were done in the last year with the Smooth Ride Home. I will ask that as a motion.”

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 16th, 2025** to present the council with an update on the Smooth Ride Home and what the funds can be spent on and present the council with the by-laws of how the money is spent and when the money is collected.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier and Wayne Ardoin.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Mildred Thierry and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

11. An update on Bayou Carron. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Public Works Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Councilwoman Mildred Thierry is not here. We will Table this matter until she returns. This is an update on Bayou Carron that Ms. Thierry wanted.”

Mr. Gordon Miller addressed the council. He stated, “My name is Gordon Miller. I live at 117 Canal Road, Opelousas. I have been living there for 42 years, since 1981. There is a Dam down the road. Every time we have bad weather they keep going over there and plugging the Dam. The day before we had the bad weather I caught them over there at 7:00 p.m. plugging the Dam, it goes on constantly. The only thing that I have not done is take possession of a machine and remove the debris myself. From the Drainage District, a representative from the Drainage District told me at onetime the farmer that made that Dam would have to remove it and that was after the first flood in 2014. We went through another flood in August, 2016 and now we are in April 2025 and the Dam is still there. The Beavers are very strong because they have pieces of reinforced concrete in there.”

Public Works Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Mr. Soileau, are you familiar with this issue?”

Public Works Director, Barry Soileau stated, “That would be a Drainage District issue.”

Mr. Gordon Miller stated, “The Drainage District has not done anything in 42 years until I pushed them to do it. Unless we get the Public Works Department to go in there like when Mr. Bill Fontenot was there and they removed the debris the canal will not flow. To the best of my knowledge there a plenty laws in the state of Louisiana about blocking the natural flow of water. Some of the other councilmembers told me they have grants for one million dollars (1,000,000.00) and have spent it on drainage. That is how important drainage is. Do we have to give people homes and business to go under water before we do something about it?”

Public Works Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Because it is a Drainage District issue who is your Drainage Board?”

Mr. Gordon Miller stated, “They don’t answer the phone. I have been to the meetings, me and a couple of my neighbors that are deceased now and they don’t do anything.”

Public Works Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Do you know your Council member’s name?”

Mr. Gordon Miller stated, “The Public Works Department can go over there with their Grappler machine that they have and remove that stuff in a matter of one hour, it can be gone. The Sheriff can go over there and serve the person that is doing it and tell them not to do it anymore.”

Public Works Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Well Ms. Thierry is not here. She is the one who brought it up for discussion.”

Mr. Gordon Miller stated, “Ms. Thierry is not Public Works and she is not the Parish President. She is the Councilmember.”

Public Works Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Yes Sir but she helps to appoint the people that is on the Drainage Board in that Drainage District. It is a Drainage Board issue.

Mr. Gordon Miller stated, “No Ma’am, it is a Farmer’s issue. They wants to do what they want to do and nobody can correct them.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Perhaps Mr. Miller could speak to Mr. Bellard and ask him to check this out. I think that is the proper procedure. He will probably send Barry over there to look at the matter but he will have to get directions to do that.”

Mr. Gordon Miller stated, “It is very easy to spot Mr. Taylor because SLEMCO put power there for him to pump from the Canal but there was no Dam when he did that. I spoke to

SLEMCO about it and they said they cannot remove the power to the well as long as he pays the bill.”

Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “I understand.”

Public Works Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Why don’t you give your number to the Public Works Director.”

Mr. Gordon Miller stated, “He has my number.”

Mr. Van Reed questioned, “Mr. Gordon, exactly where is that located?”

Mr. Gordon Miller started, “Barry knows where it is. It is on Canal Road. It is down the road from my house. They have power lines crossing the road. They have two canals merged there.”

Public Works Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “They will get back in touch with you.”

12. Authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Waterworks District No. 3. (No Set Terms) Julie Fourrier resigned.

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, April 16th, 2025** to authorize the Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to St. Landry Waterworks District No. 3. (No Set Terms).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier and Wayne Ardoin.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Mildred Thierry and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion forwarded.

13. Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “He was supposed to be here tonight. He was here at the last meeting. He was advised and I think that this is in Ms. Vivian’s District or in Mr. Timmy’s District in reference to the Health Unit, feeding the Senior People. The Letter was never written so they can start the process over there. Remember we were told that the letter was going to be written. Mr. Lincoln Savoie called me Sunday evening and told me that they never received a letter yet. I am going ask that this committee place this before the full council and a letter be written for them to commence using that facility, it is our building I think, the Sunset Health Unit and they can commence the process.”

Public Works Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “You want to put that in a form of a motion?”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Yes I am putting it in a form of a motion.”

Councilwoman Vivian Olivier stated, “I will second it.”

Public Works Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “In case the other side did not here.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I will repeat it. It is about the letter that Mr. Lincoln Savoie came here about us giving them permission for them to use that Health Unit in Sunset to feed the Senior People. I think that Mr. Marks was involved to see about getting it done in Krotz Springs and Mrs. Thierry wanted to see about getting it done in Plaisance. He called me and he is concerned because he said he thought we were going to give him a letter to let them go ahead and start. They have not had permission because the Feds are ready to start the process. I am asking for a motion from the committee.”

Mr. Van Reed stated, “I talked to Jessie about it. He said that he is handling that. He is talking to Mr. Lincoln Savoie directly.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “Lincoln called me Sunday evening. He was all concerned about it. He said that he was going to be here tonight. Maybe they spoke since then but he asked me to bring it up and I am doing what he ask.”

Public Works Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Do you want to withdraw your motion?”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “I will withhold it until further notice. If they have spoken I am good.”

Mr. Gordon Miller questioned, “I just want to know what was discussed on item No 6 on the agenda. Discuss four-wheelers, side-by-side and golf carts on the roads.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “I had that on the agenda. I talked to our lawyer and he gave me some paper work on it.”

Mr. Gordon Miller stated, “According to what the Sheriff put on Facebook is legal in St. Landry Parish for them to ride four wheelers, side-by sides on the parish roads. As far as I know on a public highway they can ride on the shoulder.”

Councilman Alvin Stelly stated, “It is legal.”

Mr. Gordon Miller stated, “What does the Louisiana Statue say?”

Public Works Chairwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Mr. Stelly stated that it has been resolved.”

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, “We have a motion to adjourn.”

Councilwoman Alvin Stelly stated, “Second.”

14. Adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Wayne Ardoin, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly adjourn the Public Works Committee.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Alvin Stelly, Vivian Olivier and Wayne Ardoin.

NAYS: None. **ABSENT:** Mildred Thierry and Jimmie Edwards. **ABSTAINED:** None.

Motion carried.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE
SHERELL JORDAN, COUNCIL CLERK
KAREN BARLOW, ASSISTANT COUNCIL CLERK**